

[18 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

- (b) No Sir.
- (c) Does not arise in view of 'b' above.

Prisoners languishing in various jails

**3529. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that a number of prisoners detained under various Acts, are languishing in various jails of the country for the last 15 years or more without any trial;
- (b) whether Central Government have asked the State Government to furnish a detailed report of such prisoners; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) 'Prisons' is a State subject, as per entry 4 of List-II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Hence information about undertrial prisoners in jails for last 15 years or more is not maintained by Central Government. However, as per available information, as on 31.12.1998, there were 347 undertrial prisoners detained in prisons in the country for more than five years.

Meeting regarding Mandir-Masjid dispute

3530. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in order to resolve a Mandir-Masjid dispute at the local level a meeting of Hindu and Muslim leaders on the Ayodhya issue was recently held;
- (b) if so, the details of the decisions arrived at;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the leaders from both the communities decided to hold the next round of talks in March; and
- (d) if so, whether Government's side is also represented in the meeting?